

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-10 and 13-19 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporation the limitations of claims 2-4 and 6. Claim 7 has been amended into independent form with all of the limitations of original claim 1. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 11 and 12. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended into independent form with all of the limitations of original independent claim 10.

The Examiner objected to original claim 14 because there was not a proper antecedent basis for the term "leaves".

Claim 14 has been amended to ensure proper antecedent basis for a terms.

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the assignee's earlier U.S. Patent No. 5,893,845 to Newby et al. However, claims 6-9 and 12-17 merely were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if amended or rewritten into independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-4 and allowable claim 6. Hence, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowable claim 7 had depended directly from claim 1. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of claim 1. Hence, amended claim 7 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and should be allowed as well.

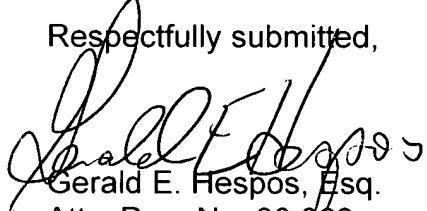
Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and allowable claim 12. Hence, claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 13 depends from claim 10 and should be allowed as well.

Allowable claims 14 and 15 had depended directly from claim 10. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended into independent form with all of the limitations of claim 10. Hence, allowable claims 14 and 15 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 16 and 17 depend from allowable claim 15, and hence should be allowed as well.

The applicant and the assignee are pleased to note that claims 18 and 19 were allowed as filed. Those claims remain in the application.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066  
Customer No. 31948  
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP  
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel. (212) 725-2450  
Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: July 21, 2004